

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 EUR-25 RSR-01 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 /118 W
----- 033473

R 250500 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2176

INFO SECDEF FOR ASD- PA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO PAO SAIGON

CH USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

COMUSSAG NKP

CDR JCRC NKP

USDEL JC PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF JCRC FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

COMUSMACTHAI PASS CINCPAC PAO BANGKOK

REF: COMUSMACTHAI 230945 Z MAY 73

1. EMBASSY SAIGON AND USDEL FPJMT CONCUR IN METHOD OF
HANDLING NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE FOR JCRC FIELD INVESTIGATIONS AS
OUTLINED IN COMUSMACTHAI 230945 Z MAY 73.

2. AN OPEN, ABOVE- BOARD POLICY TOWARD MEDIA COVERAGE OF FUTURE
CRASHSITE INVESTIGATIONS WOULD BE, IN EMBASSY' S OPINION, MOST
EFFECTIVE MEANS TO AVOID ERRONEOUS REPORTING AND UNWARRANTED
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CRITICISM OF JCRC' S HUMANITARIAN MISSION. IF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FEEL WE ARE UNDULY RESTRICTIVE AND UNCOOPERATIVE, CORRESPONDENTS WILL TURN TO NON- US SOURCES, SUCH AS OTHER DELEGATIONS TO THE FPJMT, WHO WOULD NOT NECESSARILY SUPPLY OBJECTIVE INFORMATION.

3. EMBASSY PRESS AFFAIRS OFFICER HAS FOUND NEWS AGENCIES AND NETWORKS OPERATING IN SAIGON WILLING ABIDE BY FOLLOWING GROUND RULES, OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELEGRAM:

A. NO PHOTOGRAPHS OF REMAINS.

B. TYPE OF AIRCRAFT MAY BE REPORTED WHEN CRASHSITE IS INVOLVED BUT UNIT TO WHICH ASSIGNED MUST NOT BE REPORTED.

C. MONTH AND YEAR AIRCRAFT WAS DOWNED MAY BE REPORTED, BUT NOT EXACT DATE.

D. EXACT LOCATION SHOULD NOT BE REPORTED, BUT GENERAL LOCATION WOULD BE PERMISSABLE.

E. NAMES OF MISSING OR DEAD PERSONNEL AND NAMES OF CREW MEMBERS AND/ OR OTHER SURVIVORS OF CRASH SHOULD NOT BE REPORTED.

4. WHEN ADVANCE NOTICE IS GIVEN, EMBASSY AND MACTHAI PAO SHOULD INFORM CORRESPONDENTS THAT THEY MUST FURNISH OWN TRANSPORTATION TO SCENE OF CRASHSITE INVESTIGATION. NETWORKS AND WIRE SERVICES IN SAIGON ALREADY UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE THE END OF MACV, AIR RESOURCES FOR NEWSMEN ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE.

5. EMBASSY WISHES ADD FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. WHEN RESULTS OF A SITE INVESTIGATION ARE NEGATIVE, EMBASSY FEELS THAT MEDIA SHOULD BE INFORMED.

B. IF RESULTS ARE POSITIVE, MEDIA SHOULD BE TOLD ONLY THAT REMAINS ARE BEING TRANSPORTED TO JCRC' S CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY IN SAMAE SAN THAILAND FOR IDENTIFICATION.
WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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To: BANGKOK
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DAO PAO SAIGON
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FOR ASD- PA

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